



Region 10
1200 Sixth Av
Seattle WA 98101

MIKE GEARHEARD
EPA
HW-105

WA 6906 11/10/93 Betty - This is a good job; we should consider doing these for all our active CA projects - MB

June, 1993

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

RCRA Update Pacific Wood Treating, Corp. Ridgefield, Washington

Pacific Wood Treating (PWT) has completed the first phase of studies to characterize site conditions and will be conducting a second phase of studies designed to get the additional data needed to select a good approach to site cleanup. EPA anticipates that additional studies will commence this summer.

What did the phase I studies show?

The studies confirmed that soil and groundwater at the site are contaminated. They also detected three groundwater zones: several areas of "perched" groundwater (just below the surface), a shallow alluvial aquifer and the regional Troutdale aquifer. Briefly, some of the highlights are:

- o A layer of oily waste about 9 inches thick was found floating on groundwater about 18 feet below the surface in a shallow well immediately west of the tank farm/retort area.
- o Soil sampling in borings and wells in the tank farm/retort vicinity indicates the presence of elevated levels of pentachlorophenol (PCP), PNAs, gasoline, and diesel; groundwater samples had elevated levels of PCP, PNAs, and volatile organic compounds.
- o PCP contamination of groundwater in both the alluvial and Troutdale aquifers.
- o A shallow perched groundwater aquifer located west of the tank farm/retort area appears to flow toward the wildlife refuge. Soil in this area is contaminated with PCP and arsenic.

What will happen next?



The levels of contamination found do not pose an immediate threat to public health. A comprehensive assessment of potential threats to public health and the environment will be conducted. Based on this assessment, cleanup levels and other possible courses of action will be evaluated.

EPA, in consultation with WDOE and USFWS, will review and comment on the May 12, 1993 Data Summary Report, RFI Site Characterization. The Consent Order will be amended to incorporate the additional studies and to revise the schedules for completion of various activities.

How can I get more information?

Much more detailed information about the results of the initial site characterization studies and the proposed additional studies is presented in the May 12, 1993 Data Summary Report. Please visit a repository and review the report if you would like to read about the details.

Public involvement

Facts sheets such as this will be prepared periodically to keep the public informed of progress on the site.

Information repositories have been established at two locations. The repositories contain documents such as the Consent Order, Work Plans, Study Reports and Fact Sheets.

Information repositories are located at:

Vancouver Public Library

Attn: Julie Jolly
1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA

Ridgefield City Hall

Attn: Claudia Schobert
230 Pioneer
Ridgefield, WA 98642

For more information, contact:

Sylvia Burges
EPA Project Coordinator
1200 6th Avenue, HW-104
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1254

Dan Phalen
EPA Community Relations
1200 6th Avenue, HW-117
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-6709

Or call EPA toll-free:
1-800-424-4EPA

Background

Since 1964, Pacific Wood Treating, Corp. has operated a wood treatment facility in Ridgefield, Washington. The facility borders Lake River on the west, the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge on the north, and the town of Ridgefield on the south and east.

Over the years, wood products have been treated with a variety of wood preservatives including pentachlorophenol (PCP), creosote, copper naphthenate, and CCA (a copper, chromium, and arsenic mixture). Releases of these substances have occurred due to spills, drippage, leakage and groundwater runoff. In June 1985, a groundwater study at the PWT facility showed that PCP was present in groundwater beneath the site at levels above the federal drinking water standards. Other contaminants detected in the groundwater during the study included benzene, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

EPA conducted an assessment of the facility in 1990. EPA has not identified any immediate danger to human health or the environment posed by PWT. Although groundwater beneath the site is contaminated, the extent of migration of this contamination cannot be determined from currently available data. Aquatic organisms in the adjacent Lake River and Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge appear to be the most likely receptors of any contaminants potentially moving offsite.

PWT has voluntarily entered into a "Consent Order" with EPA. Under the terms of the Order, PWT will take actions to address existing contamination and to ensure that future contamination does not occur.

PWT has hired the environmental consulting firm of Kleinfelder to perform the required studies and cleanup activities. All work on the site will be conducted in accordance with EPA approved work plans.

If you are not on the mailing list for PWT and would like to be, please fill out this form and return to:

U.S. EPA, Attn: Dwight Davis
1200 6th Avenue, HW-117(CR)
Seattle, WA 98105

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (HW-117-CR)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

RCRA Update
Pacific Wood Treating, Corp.